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ALL NEW ILLUSTRATED HEROIC ADVENTURE

The

ROOK

A WARREN MAGAZINE

NUMBER SIX

T.M.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES
and the
MASTER OF
TIME...**

**...BATTLE
ROBAR THE
CONQUEROR!**



NEW STAR WARS SPACE STUFF!

IMPERIAL CRUISER

The Imperial Cruiser of the mad Emperor, who used these deadly ships to enforce his will throughout Imperial space. Crafted of diecast metal and high impact plastic with sleek moving parts. Cruiser has sliding cargo doors containing a removable plastic replica of "captured" Princess Leia's Royal Command Ship.
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PATROL DEW-BACK



PATROL DEWBACK This is the giant desert lizard which was used by the Imperial Stormtroopers as a patrol vehicle. Comes with movable legs, tail and head for action poses! Has saddle into which you can fit an Imperial Stormtrooper!
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Reproductions of Famous Star Wars Sets



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To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.



The ROOK

NUMBER SIX

DECEMBER 1980

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ROOK: MASTER OF THE WORLD 4

The twentieth century was a newborn child when it was christened with its first taste of nuclear devastation. The icy night above the rugged Siberian steppes exploded in unearthly fury as something alien entered the Earth's atmosphere. Shock waves from that awful impact spread to encircle the globe, and to ripple through the spectrum of time to disturb the peaceful slumber of the Rook! Something ancient, alien and deadly had set down. The Earth was threatened with destruction!



THE VIKING PRINCE 27

The dense dark Scandinavian forest rang with the fearsomely rhythmic hoofbeats of a galloping steed. The frightened rider flew through the night. His burden was precious and about to be abandoned. This was a night for evil deeds. Thus begins the saga of the Viking Prince! Losing his throne before he was old enough to know he had one, losing his father to the treachery of the King's general, losing his mother in wedlock to the treacherous usurper, the Viking Prince is hell-bent on revenge!



VOLTAR: COMES THE ENDTIME 49

The long-prophesied endtime was upon the world! The hordes of the blood thirsty Evil One were set loose across the land ravaging all before them. Only one man could stay such evil. Only one miraculous savior could arrest and end the remaining six plagues that were to face mankind. All looked to Voltar. But the battle-weary general of long dead army was lost! Deep beneath the surface of the Earth, in caverns endless to man, Voltar wandered. Hopeless, ill with the plague, Voltar longed for death!



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THE ISLE OF HAITI! ONCE
A ROMANTIC PARADISE, IT IS
NOW A JUNGLE OF TERROR,
PLAGUE AND DEATH.

HERE, SOARING ABOVE THE
TROPICAL FOREST, *RESTIN
DANE*, THE *ROOK*, IS TORN
FROM A MISSION OF MERCY
AND RUTHLESSLY *INVALED*
INTO THE MADDENING JAWS
OF INSANITY.

The

ROOK

W-HO ARE YOU?
AND WHAT IS THIS
CRAFT?

THIS IS THE WARSHIP OF
ROBAR THE CONQUEROR,
INTRUDER! I AM MASTER
OF THE WORLD!

AND THESE
MEN? WHO ARE
THEY? SURELY NOT
PART OF THIS
DEMONIC CREW?

DOYLE'S THE NAME, SIR!
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. THIS
IS MY PROTÉGÉ, MR. JULES
VERNE! AND WE ARE, LIKE YOU,
I FEAR SAY, PRISONERS
OF THIS METAL MADMAN!



METAL
MADMAN!?
HAHAHA! DON'T
YOU KNOW A VERI-
TABLE GOD WHEN
YOU SEE ONE,
EARTHMAN?



GODS AND DEVILS BE WAYLAI-
D, SIR! A MONSTER IS WHAT YOU
ARE! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO
MY BROTHER.

YOUR
BROTHER,
SIR?

*SEE LAST ISSUE.



THAT MINDLESS THING
IN YOUR MEDICAL ROOM! MY
BROTHER!

AH, MY... "LIBRARY!"
YOU'RE RELATED? PITY.
IT WAS OUT OF MY
HANDS. HIS CURRENT
AFFLICTION--!

AFFLICTION? I SAW
THE MONSTROUS SCARS!
HIS SKULL HAS BEEN
OPENED! IT... IT'S
HIDEOUS!



YOU BROTHER HAD A
REMARKABLE INTELLECT,
SIR. I OPENED HIS SKULL
TO FEED UPON THAT
INTELLECT AND TO LEARN
OF THIS HOSTILE, SAVAGE,
BLOODMADDENED PLANET!
HIS BRAIN, YOU MIGHT
SAY, IS MY REFERENCE
LIBRARY!

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND,
I HAD TO DO AS I DID,
SIR! I COULDN'T LET
YOUR BROTHER'S BRAIN
DIE!

HIS BODY CONTRACTED AN
ALIEN DISEASE...OBVIOUSLY
FROM ME! A DORMANT VIRUS
CARRIED IN MY LESS
ROBOTIC PARTS.



HIS BODY LIES DYING, ARTIFICIALLY
SUPPORTED, BUT DYING!
I FEAR THE VIRUS IS SLOWLY ACTING
UP ON MY OWN BODY AS WELL. ALL
TOO SOON, I, TOO, WILL DIE OF IT.
I MOST GREATLY FEAR, BEFORE MY
GREAT WORK IS FINISHED.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU'RE AN ALIEN??

I AM FROM A PLANET WHICH HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN INTER-GALACTIC WARFARE FOR TEN THOUSAND LIFETIMES. ABOARD MY STARSHIP I WAS FIRST OFFICER, AND CONTRARY TO MY CREED AS A SOLDIER I GREW TO HATE WARFARE AND BLOODSHED!



I CONSPIRED TO SABOTAGE MY SHIP, CRIPPLE IT, FORCING IT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WARZONES.

BUT MY SABOTAGE BACKFIRED! MOST OF MY BODY WAS DESTROYED IN A FLASHFIRE ABOARD MY SHIP!



MY CREWMATES PRESERVED MY BODY IN A SUSPENSION TANK WHILE FITTING IT WITH ROBOTIC REPLACEMENTS. STILL MY SABOTAGE HAD TAKEN EFFECT. THE CREW REALIZED THE DAMAGES IN THE ENGINES WERE CAUSING A MELT DOWN. THEY DESPERATELY SOUGHT A PLACE TO GAIN SAFETY.

THEY FOUND THIS PLANET AND HOPE FOR SURVIVAL SPRANG ANEW. BUT THEY NEVER TOUCHED DOWN. THE SHIP EXPLODED... KILLING THEM ALL!

YET, IN MY SUSPENSION TANK, IN THIS METAL SHELL, I WAS SPARED!

A MAN... THIS ALEXANDER VERNE, FOUND MY BODY AND BECAME MY... SLAVE!



THE SIBERIAN STEPPES EXPLOSION! THEN IT WAS YOUR SHIP EXPLODING?

PRECISELY!

AND THE VIRUS SPREADING THROUGH THE HAITIAN JUNGLES LIKE A PLAGUE... YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT, AS WELL!



AGAIN... A VIRUS OVER WHICH I HAVE NO CONTROL!

NO! BUT WE DO! I AND SOME OTHERS HAVE A VACCINE! THEY'RE DOWN THERE NOW. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THEM! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THOSE PEOPLE! IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH!



NO. YOU'LL BE STAYING RIGHT HERE, MY FRIEND! YOU'LL EITHER BECOME A TRUSTED CREW MEMBER OR YOU'LL REPLACE MR. VERNE'S BROTHER AS MY "LIBRARY."

YES! I CAN SENSE IT! YOUR BRAIN WILL AID ME UNCEASINGLY IN MY GREAT WORK... THE ULTIMATE SUBJUGATION OF PLANET EARTH!

MEANWHILE...AND ALMOST EIGHT DECADES LATER, IN A MYSTERIOUS UNDERGROUND CAVERN DEEP BENEATH THE ARIZONA DESERT, AN OLD MAN AND A TIN MAN PONDER EQUALLY PERPLEXING MYSTERIES OF THE PAST!

WHEN I ACCIDENTALLY CRASHED OUR RESCUE MACHINE THROUGH THE GALLERY I NEVER 'SPECTED T' UNCOVER THE LIKES A' THIS! WHATCHA S'POSE IT IS, USELESS?

MY DEAR MASTER BISHOP, MY SCANNERS REFLECT THE INTERNAL CIRCUITRY TO BE THAT OF... A TIME MACHINE!

*SEE LAST ISSUE!

A TIME MACHINE!? YOU SCRUDGE-BRAINED IDJIT! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED T'GO BACK IN TIME AN' SAVE M'BOY RESTIN'!

IT IS COMPRISED OF THE SAME ENGINEERING CHARACTERISTICS FOUND IN THE ALIEN BUILT GALLERY!

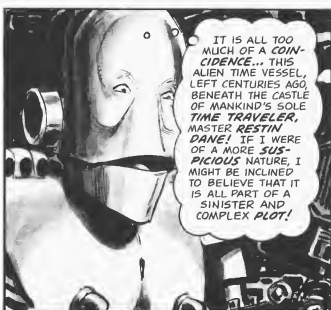
THE ALIEN MASTERS, IT SEEMS, ALSO MUST HAVE BEEN ADEPT AT TIME AS WELL AS SPACE TRAVEL!

IF N IT IS A TIME MACHINE, IT'S THE GRANDDADDY OF ALL TIME MACHINES, THE BIG KAHUNA... THE KING!

THE KING IT IS, SIR!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT IN ORDER TO RESCUE MASTER ROOK FROM THE WILD GOOSE CHASE WE SENT HIM ON, THIS KINGLY MACHINE WILL SERVE US WELL.

YOU GET THAT BIG DADDY RIPPIN' TIN MAN... AN' I'LL GO PINPOINT TH' COORDINATES OF M'BOY RESTIN'S TIME MACHINE!



AND THAT "TROUBLE," IS CENTERED SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF A HAITIAN JUNGLE, WHERE FOUR ALMOST CERTAINLY DOOMED MEN ARE SAVED BY A STRANGE CRAFT RENDING THE SKY IN THE FORM OF A PREHISTORIC MONSTER!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS, BUT IT'S GOT THE NATIVES SO FRIGHTENED THAT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT US!

LET'S NOT BLOW OUR GOOD FORTUNE! LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE WHILE THE GETTINGS GOOD!



YOU BETCHA, SENOR JENNINGS. THEES WAY, SENOR PORTER!

OH, HENRY!

O'HENRY? WHY HE ALWAYS SAYIN' O'HENRY? I THOUGHT HIS NAME WAS SENOR WILLIAM SIDNEY PORTER?!

KEED JOOS SHUDDUP AND RUN!



LOOK! IT'S AN ABANDONED VILLAGE! IT'S AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO HIDE! EVERYBODY DIVE FOR COVER!

STAY LOW, PORTER!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOU, JENNINGS! YOU'VE COME OUT OF NOWHERE AND HAVE SAVED MY LIFE! BUT HOW...? AND WHY? I'D HEARD THAT YOU'D BECOME A...A--!





A TRAIN ROBBER?! THAT'S WHAT THE WANTED POSTERS CALL ME! BUT I'M STILL A SCIENTIST, BILL! I'M STILL WORKING ON THAT DKARNATHAN SERUM.

HELL, WHEN YOU LEFT THE UNIVERSITY, AFTER I TOOK THE SERUM OUT WEST TO TEST ON PURE BACTERIA STRAINS, YOUR SUCCESSOR CUT OFF MY FUNDS



I HAD TO INVENT A BOGUS PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM, CISCO HERNANDEZ INC., ORDER MY OWN DICARNATHAN SAMPLES FROM THE UNIVERSITY, THEN TRY TO STEAL THE DRUG OFF THE TRAINS!

WHO IS CISCO HERNANDEZ?

YOU JUST MET THEM! THE LAST OF MY... "OUTLAW GANG!"



BUT, BILL, I'VE FINALLY GOT IT. THE SERUM! IT CAN CURE EVERY PLAGUE CASE IN HAITI... IN THE WORLD!

FANTASTIC! BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS DOWN HERE?

I HEARD YOU WERE WORKING ON A BOOK.



THE TRUTH IS, AL, I'VE BEEN DRYING OUT ON BOOZE! I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SUBJECT TO WRITE ABOUT.



SUDDENLY, THERE IS THE SOUND OF MOVEMENT IN THE UNDERBRUSH, THE FOUR MEN TENSE, NOT KNOWING WHAT IS TO COME NEXT!

SEÑOR JENNINGS! THE NATIVES... THEY'RE COMING!



OH, HENRY! WE'RE ALL DEAD MEN NOW!

MEANWHILE... WITHIN A LOCKED CELL ABOARD THE MYSTERIOUS FLYING MACHINE, THE MASTER OF TIME AND TWO TIMELESS MASTERS OF FICTION WORRY OVER THEIR OWN UNEARTHLY PREDICAMENT!

AL JENNINGS, IS DOWN THERE WITH AN UNTESTED SERUM. IT COULD BE THE UNIVERSAL CURE TO THE PLAGUE WHICH IS RAVAGING HAITI.

THE NATIVES ARE BUTCHERING WHITES THINKING THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLAGUE! AND WE ARE PRISONERS OF A CRAZY MAN FROM OUTER SPACE WHO THINKS HE CAN END EARTH'S WARS BY MAKING MORE WAR ON OUR ARMIES!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND THE ONLY WAY OUT I SEE IS TO BREAK OUT! YOU GUYS WITH ME?

NO! NOT WITHOUT MY BROTHER!

WE'RE WITH YOU, OLD MAN! RIGHT, JULES?

OH COME NOW, JULES! HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO TAKE HIM DOWN THE ROPE?

HOW WOULD YOU TAKE YOUR BROTHER DOWN THE ROPE, ARTHUR?

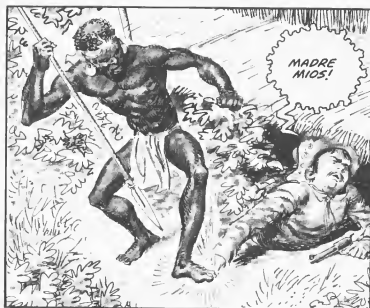
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT, OLD WOT!

THE BUTTONS ON MY SHIRT ARE INCENDIARY NODES! THEY'LL BURN US OUT OF HERE. THESE NODES ARE TRICKY, UNSTABLE, AND BADASSED!

YOU'D BOTH BEST STAND BACK A WAYS, THIS IS GOING TO BE...

...NOISY!

WHUUUMM!







SUDDENLY... FROM THE DENSE JUNGLE COMES THE SOUND OF A MAN... RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE!

SEÑOR JENNINGS!
IT'S ME...
PONCHO!

I AMOST DEED NOT
ESCAPE
WHEN THAT
SAVAGE
STEPPED
ON MY
HAND!



HERNANDEZ! I'M GLAD
YOU'RE SAFE, MY FRIEND! I...I--!

SEÑOR JENNINGS,
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU
LOOK SEEK!



I...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT,
PONCHO! JUST... JUST A
LITTLE DRAINED FROM
ALL THE EXCITEMENT!

COME ON, WE'VE
GOT TO GET AWAY
FROM HERE BEFORE
THE NATIVES CATCH
UP WITH US!



WHILE ABOARD THE FLYING
DRAGON...

I'VE GOT A FEELING
THE BRIDGE IS UP THERE,
GENTLEMEN! GET READY!
WE'RE ABOUT TO PULL OFF
THE WORLD'S FIRST
SKYJACKING!

RIGHT
YOU ARE,
MATE!

NO! I
THINK NOT,
SIR!



LOOK! YOU OBVIOUSLY
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING,
MISTER ROOK, BUT ALL I
KNOW IS, I'VE GOT TO FIND
MY BROTHER AND GET
HIM OUT OF HERE!

I UNDERSTAND, MISTER VERNE!
I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, SIR,
BUT ROBAR MUST BE STOPPED
AT ALL COSTS.

NOT TO
WORRY,
SON! I'LL
BE WITH
HIM! AND
I WAS
PERSONALLY
TRAINED
IN SITUATIONS
OF THIS TYPE
BY HOLMES
HIMSELF,
YOU KNOW!



I WISH
YOU WOULDN'T BRING UP
HOLMES AROUND OTHER
PEOPLE, ARTHUR! IT'S A
BIT EMBARRASSING!



WELL, ONE THING
HOLMES TAUGHT ME WAS
TO TRUST MY SENSE OF
DIRECTION. AND IT TELLS
ME THAT YOUR BROTHER
IS DOWN THIS DINGY
CORRIDOR, MY FRIEND!



I'M REALLY BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT YOU, ARTHUR! THIS HOLMES FIXATION HAS GONE TO YOUR HEAD!

TRUST ME, JULES! HOLMES IS AS REAL AS YOU OR I!



LOOK! THIS IS THE ROOM IN WHICH WE SAW YOUR BROTHER EARLIER! *

QUITE!

ARE YOU QUITE SURE, ARTHUR?

* SEE LAST ISSUE!



OH, GOOD SHOW, DOYLE! SIMPLY PIP!

WHEREVER IS HOLMES WHEN ONE NEEDS HIM!

IF YOU WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO SHUT THE DOOR BEHIND YOU, GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY JUST FIND OUT!



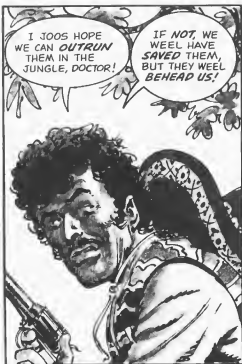
IN THE SHIP'S CONTROL CENTER, A STEALTHY FIGURE SILENTLY MAKES HIS WAY ON-TO THE BRIDGE...!

HEAR ME, EARTHEN HEATHENS! I AM YOUR MASTER! LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND SUBMIT TO PEACE!



WHILE WITHOUT...THE ALIEN WARLORD'S ULTIMATUM RINGS OMINOUSLY THROUGH THE JUNGLE!

I AM ROBAR! THE CONQUEROR! END YOUR WARFARE NOW OR FEEL MY WRATH! AND KNOW THE FURY OF ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION!



SIMULTANEOUSLY...IN THE WORLD OF THE PRESENT,
AN AGING GUNFIGHTER AND A MISBEGOTTEN
MANSERVANT LISTEN AS ANCIENT ALIEN ENGINES
WHINE TO LIFE.

COORDINATES
LOCKED IN, SIR! WE
ARE UNDERWAY!

YEEHAAA,
USELESS! IT'S
OL' BISH T'HE
RESCUE!



A-AL! WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT!
THE NATIVES ARE GAINING ON
US!

WE DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT THE NATIVES
KILLING US, BILL! THAT
MONSTER MACHINE IS
ON ITS WAY TO DO THE
JOB NOW



SUDDENLY...IN FRONT OF THE
FLEEING MEN, A WHIRLWIND
SPRINGS UP FROM NOWHERE...
AND A STRANGE MANIFESTA-
TION SLOWLY BEGINS TO APPEAR!

GOOD
HEAVENS!
W-WHAT
IS IT?

ONLY ONE
THEENG COMES
FROM NOWHERE
LIKE THAT,
SENOR PORTER!
EES A TIME
MACHINE!



THIS WAY,
FELLERS! HURRY!

WAY I SEES
IT, YOU GOT YOUR
HIDES CAUGHT
'TWEEN TH' ROCK
AND TH' HARD
PLACE...AN'
OL' BISH IS
GONE PULL YOU
OUTTA IT!

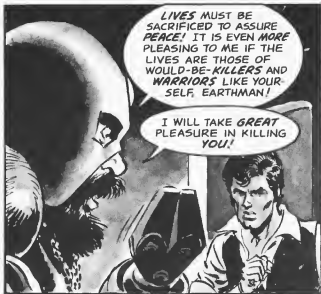




MINGLING WITH THE SCENT OF BURNING VEGETATION IS THE PUNGENT ODOR OF **CARBONIZED** HUMAN FLESH! THE MURDEROUS FLAMES INSTANTLY SNUFF THE LIFE FROM A HANDFUL OF HAITIAN WARRIORS... WHILE THERE ARE THOSE FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE WITH THEIR **LIVES!**

AND AS THE INFERNO RAGES ACROSS THE JUNGLE FLOOR, THE KILLING FLAMES LAP HUNGRILY AT THE METAL OBELISK! THE ORNATE TIME MACHINE, THOUGH SEEMINGLY UNHARMED, BECOMES LIKE A HELLISH **OVEN** TO THOSE UNFORTUNATE SOULS ENSCONCED **WITHIN!**







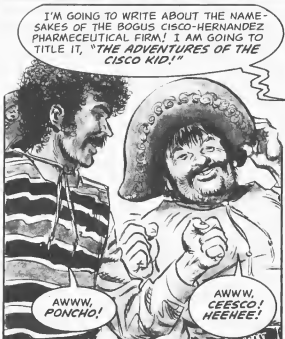




AS THE DUST, DEBRIS, SMOKE AND FLAMES OF THE EXPLOSION SLOWLY DIE...CAUTIOUS FIGURES EMERGE FROM THE JUNGLE TO GLIMPSE THE SHATTERED DREAMS OF **ROBAR** THE WOULD-BE CONQUEROR!

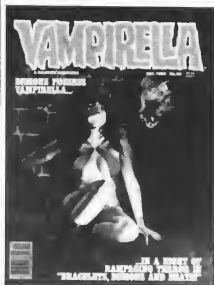


SOMETIME LATER, AFTER **SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**, **SHERLOCK HOLMES** AND **JULES VERNE** HAVE SEEN **AL JENNINGS'** MIRACULOUS **SERUM** ADMINISTERED TO THE YOUNG **VERNE**, THEY DEPART THE BATTLE-SCARRED ISLAND FOR THE PEACEFUL SHORES OF HER MAJESTY'S GOLDEN ISLES.



WARREN MAGAZINES

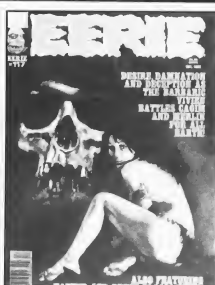
THE NEW AGE OF ILLUSTRATED EPIC
ADVENTURE IS READY FOR DELIVERY NOW!



VAMPIRELLA #92: Vampirella battles the ultimate evil as her new roommate, Cryssie Collins stands revealed as a shape changing demoness! Also Bruce Jones and Aureleon in "That Future Long Ago!" Also Will Richardson and Jose Ortiz in "Second Coming!"



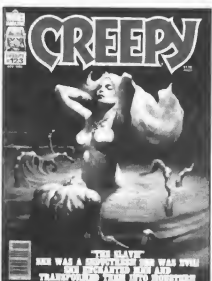
1994 #15: Cover to cover sex, sin and sensuality! Sizzle with Spearchucker Spade, the hottest private dick in the universe, with Richardson and Ninot Plus Coming Out Party, The Missionary, The Starline Saga, Baby Makes Three and 1894. See why 1994 is the best!



EERIE #117: A spectacular issue containing the conclusion to "Caglim; The City of Fire." Also the conclusion to the incredible saga of Bruce Bloodlatter in "The Jalopy Scam!" Plus the conclusion of the mind boggling "Haxtur." All this and more!



FAMOUS MONSTERS #169: The most provocative magazine in all filmdom unleashes The Hearsa, Close Encounters of A Weird Kind, Shape of Things to Come, Lord of the Sunsword, Alien on Earth, and more! All this plus our usual feature packed departments to tantalize you!



CREEPY #123: Included are such outstanding artists as Alex Toth in "Kiss of the Plague", Mayarik and Nebres in "Always Leave 'Em Laughing" and such stellar writers as Doug Moench, Michael Fleischer, Nicola Cuti and much more in this spectacular issue!

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THE GIRL WAS A *PRINCESS*, THE DAUGHTER OF KING OLAF AND QUEEN SYBIL. THE YOUTH WAS BUT THE SON OF A WOODS-MAN...A MAN WITH A *SECRET*, A HIDDEN PAST, AND AN OMINOUS, YET GLORIOUS *FUTURE*!



TOGETHER THEY JOURNEYED THROUGH THE DANGEROUS HIGHLANDS TOWARDS THE FABLED ROYAL CITY OF *THORWALD*. IT WAS NOT, HOWEVER, A JOURNEY DEVOID OF *DANGERS*!

BY THE *GODS*! ONE-EYED GIANTS! THEY ARE *SURROUNDING* US!

VIKING PRINCE

RUN, FREYJA! FLEE FROM THIS PLACE! *SAMPSON* AND I WILL TRY TO HOLD THE BRUTES!



HOW BRAVE THEY ARE! BUT IT IS *HOPELESS*! THE GIANTS WILL *KILL* THEM!



...AND I WILL BE NEXT TO DIE!



ALIEEEEE!

GOOD SHOT, SIGFRID! YOUR ARROWS HAVE FOUND THEIR *MARK*!





THE DWARF WATCHED IN UTTER **TERROR** AS THE YOUTH HURTLERD HEADLONG INTO THE RIVER, SO VERY FAR BELOW! HE KNEW THAT **NO ONE** COULD **SURVIVE** SUCH A FALL. AND IN THE HORROR OF THE MOMENT, HE FORGOT COMPLETELY ABOUT HIS **OWN** SURVIVAL.



THE INSTINCTS FOR SELF-PRESERVATION CAME **FLOODING** BACK TO HIM, HOWEVER, THE MOMENT HE FELT THE MAMMOTH HAND **SQUEEZING** THE **LIFE** FROM HIS **BODY**!



THE DWARF KNEW THAT **HIS** PLIGHT WAS ALMOST, IF NOT **MORE** DIRE THAN THAT OF HIS FALLEN COMPANION.



MEANWHILE, FREYJA, THE VIKING PRINCESS, CONTINUED HER MAD RUSH TO ESCAPE THE DEADLY GIANTS...



...UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!



TAKING FIRM HOLD OF THE STRUGGLING PRINCESS, THE GIANT **TRAMPLED** EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH IN HIS SINGLE-MINDED QUEST TO **REJOIN** HIS BROTHERS.



SOON THE TOWERING MAN-BEASTS WERE AGAIN ASSEMBLED AND A SMALL FIGURE, STANDING ATOP A NEARBY PRECIPICE, APPEARED AND SUMMONED THEM!



WELL DONE, MY CHILDREN. OLAF'S DAUGHTER IS AT LAST IN MY HANDS. THIS TIME YOU'VE BROUGHT ME A **PRICELESS BOOTY.**



FOLLOWING THE SINISTER LITTLE MAN'S ORDERS, THE GIANTS DUMBLY CARRIED THE PRINCESS AND THE DWARF INTO A DARK, UNDERGROUND CAVITY.



IT HAS BEEN SO LONG, BUT AT LAST **REVENGE** IS WITHIN MY GRASP.

I WILL MAKE OLD OLAF A **PRESENT** OF HIS DAUGHTER'S **CORPSE**. HE WILL BE SORRY THEN THAT HE EVER CROSSED **SARAVEG** THE **WIZARD!**



WITHIN THE TREACHEROUS CAVE, THE PRINCESS AND HER DWARFISH COMPANION WERE **BOUND** TO STAKES STUCK DEEP WITHIN THE HARD EARTH.

SAMPSON... I... I'M **FRIGHTENED**. SIGFRID IS **DEAD** AND WE'RE IN THE HANDS OF THESE **GHOULS.**

DON'T GIVE UP **HOPE**, FREYJA, UNTIL THE LAST **BREATH** LEAVES YOUR BODY!



HOURS PASSED. FINALLY, THE GIANTS **SLEPT** AND THE SINISTER MAGICIAN **CREPT** FROM THE SHADOWS REVEALING HIMSELF TO HIS HELPLESS CAPTIVES.

THE FULL MOON IS AT ITS ZENITH. THE TIME FOR THE SACRIFICE HAS COME!



INSANE? PERHAPS! BUT IT IS BETTER TO BE MAD THEN DEAD. AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT YOU SHALL BE BEFORE THIS DAY IS FINISHED! DEAD!



AS DEAD AS YOUR YOUNG FRIEND WHO FELL INTO THE SNAKEPIT RIVER!

NO! THE YOUTH HAD CUT THE WATER CLEANLY, IN AN EXPERT, IF SOMEWHAT BONE-NUMBING DIVE!



AND YET, DID THE VALIANT SIGFRID DIE? WAS HE TRULY CRUSHED UPON THE JAGGED ROCKS WHICH JUTTED FROM THE CHURNING WATERS? DID WATER FILL HIS LUNGS AS HIS BATTERED BODY WAS SWEEP AWAY WITH THE CURRENT?



TODAY IS A GREAT DAY FOR ME, PRINCESS! FOR SOON YOU WILL BE DEAD AND I WILL HAVE MY LONG-AWAITED REVENGE UPON YOUR FATHER!

REVENGE? UPON THIS MERE CHILD? YOU'RE INSANE!



BUT BENEATH THE MURKY WATERS WAITED A HORROR FAR MORE DEADLY THAN SIGFRID HAD EVER DREAMED!

THE YOUTH WAS COLD, **NUMBED** FROM HIS FALL. HIS BODY **ACHED** WITH PAIN HE HAD NEVER BEFORE FELT! WORSE, SHEER **TERROR** INCHED ITS WAY INTO HIS FLESH AS HE SAW A SINISTER BLACK **SHAPE** SLITHERING THROUGH THE DEPTHS TOWARDS HIM!



BY THE GODS!
W-WHAT IS IT?



ODIN
SAVE
ME!



IT'S A MAMMOTH
DEVIL SERPENT!



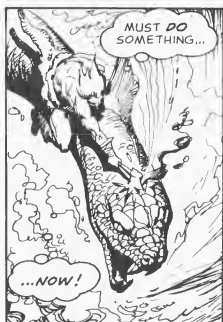
THE CREATURE **LUNGED** FOR SIGFRID! THE BOY **DODGED** EXPERTLY, GRIPPING THE BEAST'S **FIN** AS IT GLIDED PAST HIM!

GOT IT!
NOW IF I CAN
ONLY HANG
ON!



R-RUNNING
OUT OF AIR!
C-CAN'T BEAR
IT MUCH
LONGER!

THE HIDE WAS COLD, CLAMMY AND **REPULSIVE!** YET, SIGFRID KNEW THAT IT WAS CERTAIN **DEATH** TO LET GO!



MUST DO
SOMETHING...

...NOW!



THE RIVER BEAST **HOWLED** WITH PAIN AND RAGE. AS THE YOUTH'S BITTER WOODAXE SUNK **DEEP** INTO ITS SKULL! IT **LURCHED UPWARDS, BACKWARDS**, TRYING DESPERATELY, **VAINLY** TO SHAKE **LOOSE** THE PAIN-RENDING CREATURE ON ITS BACK!

AGAIN AND AGAIN IT BURST FROM THE WATER IN ANGRY, INSANE **CONTORTIONS!**



BUT THE MAN WAS LIKE A HUMAN **VICE**, CLAMPED TIGHTLY TO ITS BODY, ENDLESSLY INFLECTING DAMNABLE, BONE-WRENCHING PAIN!

WITH ONE MIGHTY **HEAVE**, THE BEAST SHOOK **FREE** ITS TORMENTOR...



...AND SIGFRID **SAILED** LIKE A HUMAN **STONE** ONTO THE SOFT, REED-STREWN RIVERBANK!





THE SNAKE, INJURED AND SLUGGISH, KNEW THAT ITS ASSAILANT WAS HIDING WITHIN THE DENSE SHORE COVERING. PATIENTLY, IT WAITED FOR THE MAN TO RE-VEAL HIMSELF!



THE WOODSMAN'S SON REALIZED THAT HIS SITUATION WAS FAR FROM ENVIABLE! THE SNAKE BLOCKED HIS ESCAPE INTO THE WATERWAY, WHILE BEHIND HIM, A SHEER ROCK CLIFF LOOMED STRAIGHT UPWARDS!



SIGFRID MADE HIS DECISION QUICKLY. HE SILENTLY EASED HIS WAY BENEATH THE WATERS AND INTO THE DARK HOLE!



GLIDING UNDERWATER AND BREATHING ONLY OCCASSIONALLY IN THE HOLLOWES ABOVE THE SURFACE, THE YOUNG NORSEMAN SWAM AS RAPIDLY AS HE COULD!



AFTER SWIMMING FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE **HOURS**, THE LAD EMERGED, GULPING HUNGRILY FOR AIR, INTO A CAVERN WHICH SEEMED **LIGHTER** THAN THE OTHERS!



BY THE GODS! CAN IT **BE?** IS THIS TUNNEL FINALLY LEADING ME TO **FREEDOM?**

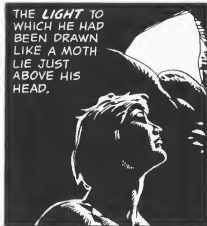
LIGHT! THERE'S **LIGHT** JUST AHEAD, PRAISE ODIN! I THOUGHT FOR CERTAIN I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK AND FACE THAT GIANT **SNAKE** ONCE AGAIN!



AT LAST THE UNDERWATER TUNNEL OPENED INTO A SPRAWLING **CAVERN!** SIGFRID, **EXHAUSTED** BY HIS LONG SWIM, **COLLAPSED** UPON THE BOULDERS WHICH LINED THE SHORE!



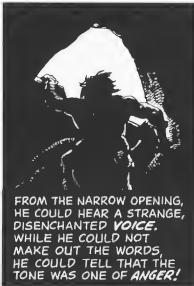
THE **LIGHT** TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN DRAWN LIKE A MOTH LIE JUST ABOVE HIS HEAD.



AMAZED AT THE SIGHT OF HIS HELPLESS COMPANIONS, THE YOUNG VIKING WARRIOR LOST NOT A SECOND. HE NOTICED THE **ROPE** WHICH HUNG LIMPLY BEFORE HIM, OBVIOUSLY AN INSTRUMENT OF **TORTURE** IN THIS STRANGE, SINISTER CAVERN!



FROM THE NARROW OPENING, HE COULD HEAR A STRANGE, **DISENCHANTED VOICE**. WHILE HE COULD NOT MAKE OUT THE WORDS, HE COULD TELL THAT THE TONE WAS ONE OF **ANGER!**



THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED!



THE GODS HAVE GUIDED MY PATH! IT IS **SAMPSON** AND **FREYJA!**



THAT MADMAN IS ABOUT TO **KILL** THEM!

IF I AM GOING TO **DIE**, THEN IT IS AS THE **GODS** HAVE DECREED! I WILL JOIN POOR **SIGFRID** IN **VALHALLA!**



YET, THE GIRL WAS **NOT** TO DIE! AT LEAST NOT **HERE!** NOT **NOW!** SHE OPENED HER EYES AND WITNESSED...A **MIRACLE!**



THE DIMINUTIVE WARRIOR, **SAMPSON**, SAW IT TOO! AND HE UNDERSTOOD INSTANTLY THAT THE **SPIRITS OF THE DEAD** WERE INTERVENING TO **SAVE** HIS WORTHLESS LIFE!



N-NOOO! IT... IT CANNOT **BE!**



YET, IT **IS** MURDERER! **SIGFRID**, SON OF **ERIC** THE WOODSMAN, DECREES...



...YOU WILL TAKE NO MORE LIVES **THIS** DAY!

THE MAD MAGICIAN **FLEW** ACROSS THE CAVERN, **SMASHING** HIS HEAD SQUARELY AGAINST THE SOLID ROCK WALL! **INSTANTLY**, HE WAS RENDERED **UNCONSCIOUS**, AND QUICKLY, **SIGFRID RELEASED** HIS FRIENDS!

FREYJA! ARE YOU ALL **RIGHT?**

SIGFRID! WE THOUGHT YOU'D **PERISHED!** WE'VE BEEN SO **FRIGHTENED!**

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU **ALIVE**, BOY!



YES! **ALIVE** FOR **NOW!** BUT WE **WON'T** BE FOR LONG, UNLESS WE GET **AWAY** FROM THIS HORRID PLACE! AND **QUICKLY!**

THE CYCLOPS CREATURES ARE **EVERYWHERE!**





CYCLOPS! **HAH!** SURELY YOU'RE NOT FRIGHTENED OF A MERE **GIANT** OR TWO, GIRL? NOT WHEN WE ARE PROTECTED BY **SIGFRID**, HE WHO HAS ARISEN FROM THE DEAD!



MAYBE THEY DO NOT FRIGHTEN **YOU**, LITTLE FRIEND. BUT **I**, SIGFRID THE DEATH-DEFIER, AM SCARED OUT OF MY WITS!

COME! LET US LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLACE!

CURIOUSLY, THE GIANTS REMAINED **ASLEEP** IN SPITE OF THE TURMOIL, ALLOWING THE YOUNG ADVENTURERS TO **ESCAPE** INTO THE NIGHT!

YET, THERE WAS **ONE** WHO WOULD NOT REMAIN ASLEEP... **SARAVEG, THE SORCERER!**

DAMN YOU, WOODSMAN! I'LL **BOIL** YOUR **HIDE** FOR THIS!



THE MAD MAGICIAN PULLED A WOODEN **PIPE** FROM HIS TOGA QUICKLY LOOSING A SHRILL ALMOST HYPNOTIC **ALARM!**



THE GIANTS **BOLTED** AWAKE INSTANTANEOUSLY...



REEEEEE!



...AND IN SECONDS WERE STUMBLING THROUGH THE MUSKY CAVERNS, IN MAD **PURSUIT** OF THE **RUNAWAYS!**

THE COMPANIONS **RAN** FROM THE CAVERN AS RAPIDLY AS THEY COULD, STRIVING TO PUT **DISTANCE** BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE KILLER GIANTS!



YET, FATE TENDS TO PLAY CRUEL TRICKS... ESPECIALLY UPON THE INNOCENT!

BY ODIN'S BEARD! THE **GIANTS!** THEY'RE BEHIND US!



THANKS TO THEIR LONG LEGS, THE MAMMOTH MAN-CREATURES HAD **OVERTAKEN** SIGFRID AND HIS FRIENDS RAPIDLY!



HURRY, SAMPSON! UP THIS HILL! I HAVE A PLAN!

I CAN HOLD THEM OFF HERE, LITTLE FRIEND! BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE **FREYJA** TO **THORWALD** AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!



NO, SIGFRID! WE WON'T LEAVE YOU! NOT AGAIN! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THOSE MONSTERS ALONE!



I CAN... HERE!
NOW DON'T ARGUE,
GIRL! JUST GO!

IF I DON'T HOLD
THEM, WE'LL ALL BE
CAPTURED AGAIN! I
DON'T HAVE TO TELL
YOU WHAT THAT
MEANS!

PAINFUL AS IT IS,
SIGFRID IS RIGHT,
CHILD! MAY THE
GODS PROTECT
HIM!

THE PRINCESS AND THE TINY
WARRIOR FLED AS SIGFRID
PREPARED HIMSELF FOR
BATTLE... POSSIBLY TO THE
DEATH!

THEY'RE COMING!

IF MY IDEA
DOESN'T WORK,
'IT'LL BE THE
LAST BRAIN-
STORM I'LL
EVER HAVE!

COLDLY WITH ALL
OF THE PENT-UP
ANGER IN HIS SOUL,
THE WARRIOR-YOUTH
LASHED OUT AT
A BLOCK OF NEAR-
BY BOULDERS.

THE GIANTS WERE
CAUGHT ALMOST
INSTANTANEOUSLY IN
THE DEVASTATING
AVALANCHE WHICH
THUNDERED DOWN
UPON THEM!



FOR THE MOMENT, THE BLOOD-LUSTING BRUTES HAD BEEN **HALTED!**
YET, THERE WERE FAR TOO **MANY** OF THEM! FAR TOO MANY FOR
ALL TO BE STOPPED **PERMANENTLY** BY A MERE MAN-MADE
ROCKSLIDE!



SLOWLY, THE DUST-STREWN
DEBRIS **SETTLED**, AND
THE VALIANT WOODSMAN'S
SON KNEW THAT HIS FIGHT
WAS FAR FROM BEING
OVER!



COME, YOU
BUGGERING WRETCHES!
YOU'LL HAVE MY FRIENDS
OVER MY **LIFELESS**
BODY!



AND I'LL
NOT CHEAPLY
GIVE UP MY
FINAL
BREATH!



RAW, BLOOD-BURSTING **RAGE** SURGED THROUGH THE MAN-BEASTS! WHO WAS THIS INSIGNIFICANT **GNAT** TO THWART THEIR CONSUMATE **POWER**?



COME, GRUESOME!
YOUR **HEAD** WILL
BE **NEXT**!

THE **FURY** OF THE GIANTS WAS NO LESS THAN THAT OF THE BRAVE WOODSMAN'S SON, HOWEVER! HIS BLADE SLICED THE AIR, AGAIN AND AGAIN, CUTTING DEEPLY INTO THE FLESH OF THE MAN-MONSTERS, DRAWING **BLOOD** AS HE HELD THEM AT BAY!

YET, THE ENDURANCE OF A MERE HUMAN IS NOT LIMITLESS! AS **FATIGUE** SLOWED HIS SPEED, AN ANGRY GIANT LUNGED FOR SIGFRID, SQUASHING HIM IN HIS SUPER-HUMAN GRASP!



AGHHHHH!
H-HE IS SQUEEZ-
ING THE **LIFE**
FROM MY
BODY!

IN **DESPERATION** THE WARRIOR-YOUTH GRIPPED THE GIANT'S HAIR, MUSTERING EVERY OUNCE OF HIS FAILING STRENGTH, HE **CRUSHED** THE FEATURES OF THE FOUL-SMELLING MONSTROSITY!





NOW I THINK IT IS TIME FOR ME TO VANISH!

YET, BEFORE THE YOUTH COULD TURN AWAY, AN ANGRY GIANT HURLED HIS DEADLY CLUB!



THOR'S BEARD! THAT WAS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!

THIS CREVICE HAS SAVED MY LIFE!



THE GIANTS TRIED TO PURSUE THE FLEEING MAN, BUT IT WAS HOPELESS! THEY WERE MUCH TOO LARGE! SIGFRID SLIPPED AWAY FROM THEM LIKE A TRICKY MOUSE!



NOW IF I CAN REJOIN SAMPSON AND FREYJA... IF THEY ARE SAFE!

SIGFRID CONTINUED TO SCAMPER THROUGH THE NARROW STONE CREVICE! WHEN HE FELT HE HAD GONE FAR ENOUGH, HE **EMERGED** TO FIND...

...**HOPELESSNESS** IN THE FORM OF A **DOZEN** BLOOD-HUNGRY MONSTERS!



THE GIANTS!
THEY STILL SEARCH
FOR ME!

THEY KNOW I AM
HIDING AMONG THE
ROCKS! THEY ARE NOT
ABOUT TO ALLOW MY
ESCAPE!

FOREBODING CLOUDS OF **DOOM** SWEEPED ACROSS THE MIND OF THE WARRIOR YOUTH! ESCAPING THE MONSTER-MEN WOULD NOT BE EASY! YET, AS HE TURNED TO CREEP AWAY, SIGFRID SAW THAT THE GIANTS WERE NOW THE **LEAST** OF HIS WORRIES!



GODS!

THE CREATURE HISSED AT SIGFRID AND THE YOUTH COULD SMELL THE HIDEOUS STENCH OF **DEATH** UPON ITS DECAYING INCISORS!



IS EVERY
THING IN THESE
HIGHLANDS SO
MONSTROUS?

THEN HE SAW THE GARGANTUAN REPTILE **TENSE** AND KNEW THAT WAS ABOUT TO **SPRING!**



IN THAT TERRIBLE, ETERNAL INSTANT, THE YOUTH UNDERSTOOD THAT BUT A THIN SHAFT OF STEEL STOOD BETWEEN HIMSELF AND INSTANT **OBLIVION!**



IN THROES OF DESPERATION, SIGFRID LEAPED AWAY FROM THE MONSTER, BUT IN SO DOING REALIZED THE FUTILITY OF HIS ACTIONS!



HE COULD NEVER OUT-RUN THE LIZARD! HIS ONLY HOPE OF SURVIVAL WAS TO STAND HIS GROUND... AND FIGHT!

COME, SCALY ONE!



I WEARY OF BEING PURSUED BY MINDLESS PREDATORS WHO WISH ONLY TO FILL THEIR EMPTY GULLET WITH MY FLESH!



THIS DAY, ONE OF US WILL PASS AMONG THE SPIRITS?!



BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SIGFRID!



THE REPTILE BEAST HOWLED IN PAIN-LADEN RAGE! SIGFRID LUNGED ONCE! HIS SWORD FOUND THE LIZARD'S PULSING **HEART!**

THE MONSTER WAS QUICKLY STILLED!



YET, ITS HIDEOUS **DEATHCRY** HAD NOT GONE **UNNOTICED!** LONG, OMINOUS **SHADOWS** SLOWLY ENCIRCLED THE VIKING PRINCE. SIGFRID'S HEART **SANK** AS HE REALIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN **FOUND!**



TREACHEROUSLY, YET CAUTIOUSLY, THE GIANTS **ADVANCED** UPON HIM, WARY OF THIS LITTLE GNAT WHOSE SLING WAS TOO **DEADLY!**



THE MAN-BEAST RAISED HIS WEAPON, READY TO DELIVER THE **DEATHBLOW!**



SUDDENLY, THE HEAVENS HISSED IN ANGER! A HUNDRED ARROWS **SCREAMED** THROUGH THE AIR! THE CYCLOPS-BEASTS HOWLED WITH THE AGONY OF THE DOOMED!



ASTONISHED, THE YOUNG WARRIOR WONDERED... COULD IT BE THE GREAT NORSE **GODS** THEMSELVES, DESCENDING FROM **VALHALLA** TO **PROTECT** HIM?

NO! IT WAS **SAMPSON!** AND **FREYJA!** AND **KING OLAF** HIMSELF... CHARGING ON ANGRY STEEDS AT THE HEAD OF A GREAT NORSE ARMY!

THEY **THUNDERED** THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PASS, **GLORIOUS** IN THEIR FURY, THEIR BLADES SINGING THE SWEET SONG OF **VENGEANCE!**

AT THEM, MY WARRIORS!
IN FOR THE KILL! SAVE THE
SAVIOR OF MY DAUGHTER!



DAZED, NUMBED WITH DISBELIEF, SIGFRID COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EYES! THE DAY WAS ONE OF WONDER INDEED! IT WAS AS IF THE EARTH ITSELF HAD OPENED AND SPIT FORTH A LEGION OF VALIANT WARRIORS!



NOT IF THEY HAD FALLEN FROM **VALHALLA** COULD THEY HAVE COME AT A MORE OPPORTUNE MOMENT!

THE BATTLE RAGED SAVAGELY! THE ENRAGED GIANTS TORE THROUGH THE HEROIC VIKING HORSEMAN! HUMAN BLOOD **OOZED** ONTO THE **BATTLEFIELD!** YET, **EQUAL** AMOUNTS OF GIANT BLOOD MINGLED WITH THAT OF THEIR ENEMIES!



GIANT AFTER
GIANT **FELL** TO
THE STEEL OF
THE MIGHTY
NORSE
WARRIORS!

SIGFRID! COME,
BOY... LEST YOU ARE
CRUSHED BENEATH
THE DYING MONSTER
MEN!



SAMPSON!
NEVER HAVE I
BEEN SO **GRATE-
FUL** TO SEE A
FRIEND!

WE WOULD
HAVE COME
SOONER, LAD,
BUT YOU KNOW
HOW SLOW
THESE NORSE-
MEN CAN BE!



THESE WARRIORS...!
WHO ARE THEY, MY
FRIEND? I OWE THEM
A DEBT I MAY **NEVER**
BE ABLE TO **REPAY**!

YOU WILL
LOATHE YOUR
WORDS, SIG-
FRID! THIS IS
THE ARMY OF
KING OLAF!



FREYJA IS HIS
DAUGHTER, **PRINCESS**
OF **THORWALD**... CHILD
OF YOUR **TRUE MOTHER'S**
WOMB!

SHE IS YOUR
SISTER, SIGFRID!




SAMPSON'S WORDS **CRUSHED** SIGFRID LIKE THE
BLOW OF A HEAVY AXE! ONCE MORE, CRUEL FATE
HAD TRANSFORMED A GLORIOUS VICTORY INTO
BITTER DEFEAT!

HE KNEW NOT WHAT HE
WOULD DO NOW! HE KNEW
ONLY THAT THE EMOTIONS HE
HAD BEGUN TO FEEL FOR
THE BEAUTIFUL
FREYJA WERE VILE,
PERVERSE... AND
FORBIDDEN!

HOW COULD HE FEEL **PHYSICAL LOVE** FOR A SISTER
HE HAD NEVER KNOWN? HOW COULD HE FEEL HATE
FOR A MAN TO WHOM HE **OWED** HIS LIFE?

SIGFRID WAS CONFUSED! JUSTLY SO! FOR **DES-
TINY** HAD BEEN **CRUEL** AND **SADISTIC** TO THIS
VALIANT NOBLE-BLOODED YOUTH!





BLACK, BILLOWING
CLOUDS, LADEN
WITH THE SICKEN-
ING STENCH OF
BURNING HUMAN
FLESH, ARCHED
ACROSS THE EBON
SKY, DECREYING
FOR ALL TO SEE...
THE END OF
HUMANKIND!

VOLTAR

FLAMES, BIRTHED IN
BOILING OIL, NURSED
ON THE BODIES OF
HELPLESS MEN,
WOMEN, CHILDREN,
LAPPED HUNGRILY
AT THE CASTLE
TURRETS, WHILE
GOBLINS, HORDES
OF GIBBERING,
SCREAMING, BLOOD-
LETTING REPTILE-
WARRIORS, STORMED
THE FORTRESS
WALLS, SLAYING,
BUTCHERING, MUTI-
LATING ALL BEFORE
THEM!

THEY WERE BUT THE
FIRST CURSE OF
THE SEVEN-PRO-
PHESIED PLAGUES
OF THE ENDTIME! YET,
THEY HAD FULFILLED
THEIR DESTINY TOO
WELL! THERE WOULD
BE NO SURVIVING
HUMANS TO WITNESS
THE SIX PLAGUES
WHICH YET REMAINED!

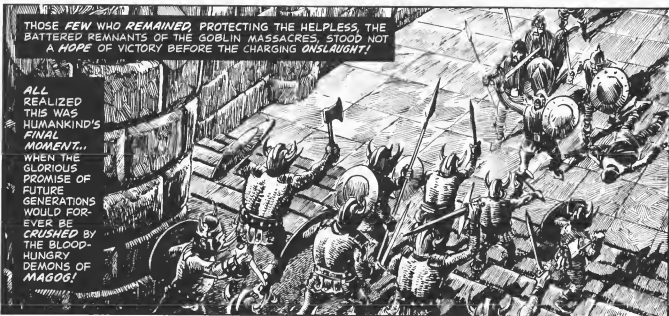
ALFREDO P. ALCALA

THE HUMAN WARRIORS HAD FOUGHT **BRAVELY!** YET, THE GOBLIN HORDES OF THE DARK NETHERWORLD HAD BEEN TOO **FIERCE...TOO NUMEROUS!** THE BATTLEFIELDS WERE **STREWN** WITH THE ROTTING REMAINS OF **ELYSIUM'S** FINEST WARRIORS!



THOSE **FEW** WHO REMAINED, PROTECTING THE HELPLESS, THE BATTERED REMNANTS OF THE GOBLIN MASSACRES, STOOD NOT A **HOPE** OF VICTORY BEFORE THE CHARGING **ONSLAUGHT!**

ALL REALIZED THIS WAS HUMANKIND'S **FINAL MOMENT...** WHEN THE GLORIOUS PROMISE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD FOREVER BE **CRUSHED** BY THE BLOOD-HUNGRY DEMONS OF **MAGOG!**



NONE WOULD SURVIVE! NOT WARRIOR, NOR WOMAN, NOR CHILD! BODIES WERE BATTERED, BROKEN, **BUTCHERED** BY THE MAD, GIBBERING ASSASSINS! **LAST** TO FALL, MUTILATED BRUTALLY BY WARAXES OF THE GOBLIN CHIEFTAINS, WAS **ANTIOCHUS**, WARRIOR-KING OF THE ONCE GOLDEN LAND OF **ELYSIUM!**



THE TERRIBLE VISION *PASSED* AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN! THE WARRIOR, WEAKENED, NUMBED BY RAGING FEVERS, *LEAPED* UNSTEADILY TO HIS FEET, *SCREAMING*, *PLEADING* FOR THE NIGHTMARISH, ALL-TOO-REAL FEVER DREAMS TO BE QUELLED!

NOOOOOO!



IT IS *UNTRUE!* IT *MUST* BE! *ELYSIUM* HAS *NOT* FALLEN BEFORE THE GOBLIN ASSASSINS! *ANTIOCHUS* IS *NOT* DEAD!

I WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT! I...I...! *CHOKES!* IT WAS A DREAM... ALL A NIGHTMARE FEVER DREAM!



THE...THE *PLAGUE...* IT GROWS *WORSE* WITH EACH PASSING HOUR!

IT CONSUMES MY FLESH EVEN AS IT *TWISTS* MY SENSES!



YET, I REFUSE TO *SUCCUMB* TO ITS ABHORRENT RAVAGES!

VOLTAR, THE WARRIOR, WILL *NOT* DIE LIKE A SICKLY GUTTER RAT!

I WILL *FIGHT* THIS SCOURGE! I WILL *OVER-*COME THIS INFESTATION!

I WILL *FULFILL* MY QUEST AND FIND THE *SAVIOR...* AND RETURN WITH HIM TO RESCUE *ELYSIUM* FROM *MAGOS'S* LEGIONS!







THE **SCROLLS**...!
THEY ARE WRITTEN
IN A TONGUE I HAVE
NEVER BEFORE
SEEN!

THE WORDS...
ARE ALIEN TO
ME... MEAN-
INGLESS!



THE SACRED
WRITINGS OF THE
ESSENES... THEIR
TEACHINGS... THEY
WERE MY FINAL
HOPE!

NOW... NOW
NOTHING
CAN SAVE
ME! I... I WILL
DIE... HERE...
WRITHING LIKE
A DISEASE-
RIDDEN
MAGGOT IN
THE DARK-
NESS!

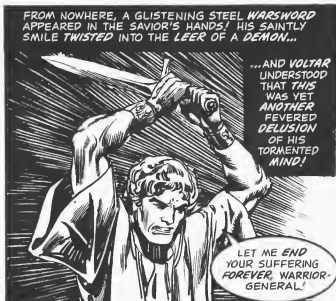


SUDDENLY, FROM DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE ONCE-SACRED CAVERN, THERE WAS **MOVEMENT**! HIS SENSES DULLED BY THE KILLING SICKNESS, VOLTAR DID NOT HEAR THE LITHE FIGURE APPROACHING UNTIL IT WAS NEARLY UPON HIM! WEAKLY, HE TURNED TO SEE THE **BEATIFIC FEATURES**... THE **SPOTLESS WHITE ROBES**!

AND VOLTAR **KNEW**! THIS WAS THE **SAVIOR** FOR WHOM HE HAD LONG SOUGHT!

YOU LOOK ILL,
WARRIOR! PERHAPS
I CAN VANQUISH
YOUR PAIN!

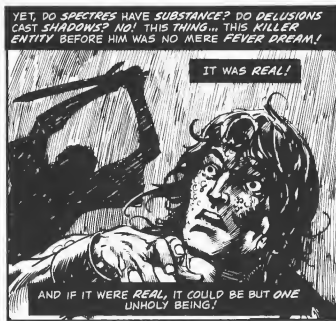
C-CAN
IT BE?



FROM NOWHERE, A GLISTENING STEEL **WARSWORD** APPEARED IN THE SAVIOR'S HANDS! HIS SAINTLY SMILE **TWISTED** INTO THE **LEER** OF A DEMON...

...AND VOLTAR UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WAS YET ANOTHER **FEVERED DELUSION** OF HIS TORMENTED MIND!


LET ME END
YOUR SUFFERING
FOREVER, WARRIOR-
GENERAL!



YET, DO **SPECTRES** HAVE **SUBSTANCE**? DO **DELUSIONS** CAST **SHADOWS**? NO! THIS THING... THIS **KILLER ENTITY** BEFORE HIM WAS NO MERE **FEVER DREAM**!

IT WAS **REAL**!

AND IF IT WERE **REAL**, IT COULD BE BUT ONE **UNHOLY BEING**!



VOLTAR'S EYES
FOCUSED UN-
STEADILY UPON
THE BLACK-
GARBED WAR-
RIOR BEFORE
HIM! ONCE
AGAIN HIS
FEVERED
MIND HAD
DECEIVED HIM!
IT HAD MADE
HIM BELIEVE
THAT THIS
NETHERWORLDLY
ASSASSIN WAS
THE SAVIOR
HE HAD MADE
HIM BELIEVE
HE HAD BEEN
SENT TO FIND!

INSTEAD, IT
WAS BUT ONE
MORE MAN-
SLAYER SENT
BY THE DARK
LORD MAGOG...
TO DESTROY
VOLTAR!

AND THERE
WAS NO DOUBT
WITHIN VOLTAR'S
DULLED MIND
THAT THIS
TIME THE
KILLER WOULD
SUCCEED!

WEAPONLESS...
TOO WEAK TO
LIFT HIS LIMBS
IN DEFENSE...
VOLTAR ALMOST
WELCOMED
THE KILLING
DEATHBLOW!

AT LEAST HE
WOULD DIE
ON THE BLADE
OF HIS ENEMY!
IT WOULD BE
A WARRIOR'S
DEATH! AND
VOLTAR KNEW
THAT NO MAN
COULD ASK
FOR MORE!

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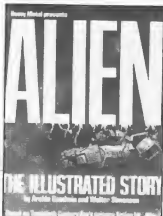
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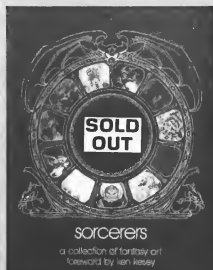


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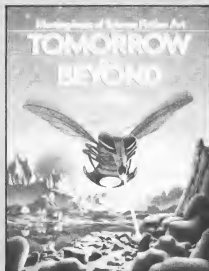


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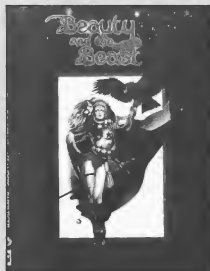
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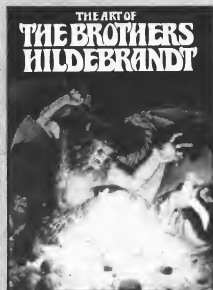
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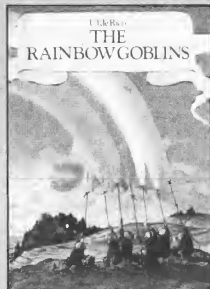
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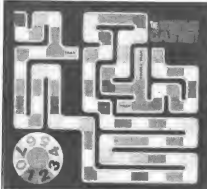
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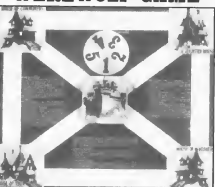
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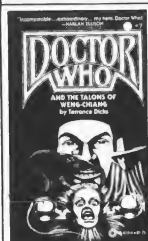


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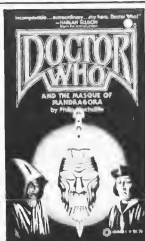




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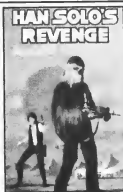


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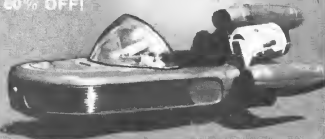
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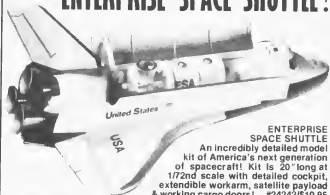
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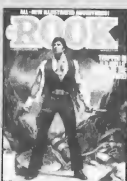
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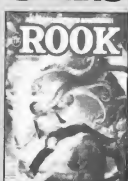
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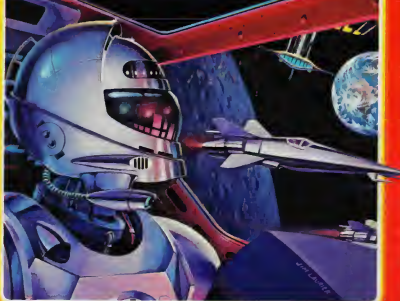
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